Focus on **Improving Service and Accountability**

Enterprise System for Grants, Contracts, and Loans Management (GCLM)

January 2008

♦ 2007-09 Omnibus Operating Budget Information Technology Pool $5.464 million appropriated

♦ Information Services Board (ISB) Level 3 Project Oversight

The Problem

State agencies control and disburse millions of dollars in grants and loans to help local governments provide services and pay for large projects such as sewage treatment plants. But how can communities easily search for grant and loan opportunities? And what if a legislator or citizen wants a clear and instant picture of how much was spent and what was achieved in, say, a specific community?

Our customers – the people who might want to apply for grants and loans – have no easy way to find out what money is available. They must check with each of the programs at each agency individually. And every time they apply, they must provide much of the same information in each application and repeat steps they may have already taken. This is not the easy, efficient process envisioned by the Governor or the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC).

And, to be sure, agencies can always answer questions, but it takes time. It can mean pulling together information scattered in spreadsheets, contract amendments, and memos across several agencies and preparing custom reports. Citizens do not have ready access to information about the state's grant and contract. This is not the kind of accountability sought by Governor Gregoire, JLARC, or agency managers.

The Solution

The GCLM project started in 2005 when both the Departments of Ecology and Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED) asked for funding for new computer systems. Instead of developing multiple systems, it was decided the Office of Financial Management (OFM) would lead the procurement of a commercially available solution for managing the state's grants, contracts, and loans.

The primary purpose of the new system is to provide a clear view across the entire state of where grant and loan money went and what was achieved. Other benefits expected from the system include:

✓ Improved collaboration across agencies.

✓ Faster, better business processes for our providers and agency staff.

✓ Streamlined and integrated program services.

✓ More proactive project monitoring.

✓ Online access to better information for better decisions and better results.

✓ Avoided costs for duplicated systems at each agency over time.

Project Scope

In addition to automating most grant, contract, and loan management business processes, the new system will include a central, self-registration process for providers (vendors/contractors/sponsors), tracking and monitoring of all contractual agreements, and a financial system interface.

Areas that will not be included in the initial phase are administration of grant funds received by agencies, procurement processes for purchase contracts, and management of loan repayment transactions.

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Project Milestones

September 2007	The ISB approved the project to move forward and expend funds, returning to the Board for review in November 2007.
November 2007	The ISB approved up to $1.5 million for an RFP solicitation, returning to the Board after the solicitation was complete for review and authorization of additional expenditures.
December 2007	Sierra Systems selected to implement OGMA Consulting Opportunity & Procurement Exchange Network (O&PEN) product and Pacific Consulting Group selected as external quality assurance.
January 2008	Sierra Systems contract begins.
March 2008	Scheduled to return to the ISB. Complete a detailed business analysis of grant, contract, and loan programs at the Departments of Ecology and CTED.
December 2008	Implement one major program from each agency.
June 2009	Implement the remaining programs from Ecology and CTED.
2009-10 Biennium	Begin integrating programs from the 15 agencies using the interim Enterprise Contracts Management System (ECMS) and other agencies into the system.

Outreach

Sign up to receive project updates at http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=SWFS2&A=1

Communications with stakeholders are occurring on a regular basis through various methods, such as newsletters, ListServ, workshops, meetings, and the project website at http://www.ofm.wa.gov/accounting/grants/default.asp.

Agencies actively involved as members of the GCLM Advisory Committee include the Departments of Ecology, CTED, General Administration, and Social and Health Services, OFM, and the Recreation and Conservation Office.

The 15 agencies using the interim ECMS and the 17 Roadmap Advisory Group agencies also receive regular updates and opportunities to offer input. These agencies include the Departments of Agriculture, Corrections, Employment Security, Information Services, Fish and Wildlife, Health, Labor & Industries, Licensing, Lottery, Personnel, Retirement, Revenue, Social and Health Services, and Transportation, the Health Care Authority, the Liquor Control Board, the Washington State Patrol, the OFM, and the Offices of the Governor, Attorney General, State Auditor, State Treasurer, and Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Providers of the state's grant, contract, and loan services will also be asked for input when work begins on the provider registration module.

Executive Steering Committee

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